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Voluntary Public

Date: 5/24/2013

GAIN Report Number: JA3017

Japan

Post: Tokyo

Japan proposes the deletion of MRLs for seven substances

Report Categories:

Sanitary/Phytosanitary/Food Safety

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Report Highlights:

On May 14, 2013, the Government of Japan (GOJ) announced the deletion of MRLs for 7 substances. The Embassy comment period for these changes will close on May 28, 2013. After that, however, there will be a domestic public comment period and a WTO notification by MHLW. These will be other opportunities for interested parties to comment on this subject.

On May 14, 2013, the Government of Japan (GOJ) announced the deletion of MRLs for 7 substances. The Embassy comment period for these changes will close on May 28, 2013. After that, however, there will be a domestic public comment period and a WTO notification by MHLW. These will be other opportunities for interested parties to comment on this subject.

Any parties interested in submitting comments to MHLW should do so as soon as possible. In the case of MRL changes, if you are requesting that Japan adopt the same limits as the U.S. maximum residue limits, the request should be accompanied by data supporting U.S. MRLs, such as risk assessment and residue data. The information MHLW requires would include toxicity data for target chemicals, residue trial data that support the MRLs, and target food commodities. Please be advised that Limit of Quantification (LOQ) and Limit of Detection (LOD) data cannot be used as reference data to set up Japanese MRLs. For Japan's MRLs and the details of the information MHLW needs, please visit the following MRLs websites:

Pesticides: <http://www.mhlw.go.jp/english/topics/foodsafety/residue/dl/01.pdf>

Feed additives: <http://www.mhlw.go.jp/english/topics/foodsafety/residue/dl/02.pdf>

Veterinary drugs: <http://www.mhlw.go.jp/english/topics/foodsafety/residue/dl/03.pdf>

For US MRLs, the following website might be informative:

<http://www.mrldatabase.com/>

MHLW will also notify these proposed changes to the WTO/SPS committee, which will provide an additional chance for interested parties to submit comments on this subject. The actual WTO/SPS notifications can be found at the site below.

http://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/sps_e/work_and_doc_e.htm

After the WTO comment period closes, a final report will be released based on the conclusions reached by a session of the Pharmaceutical Affairs and Food Sanitation Council scheduled to be held at a later date. The Council's report will constitute the final decision.

Comments to the GOJ can be made either in Japanese or English and can be sent to the below points of contact:

Comments pertaining to changes in MRLs

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Post requests that the U.S. Embassy - Tokyo also be copied on any comments at agtokyo@usda.gov to allow them to be considered as part of the official U.S. Government comments to the WTO.

Revision of Maximum Residue Limits for Agricultural Chemicals in Food

Summary

The Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare (MHLW) is going to set and withdraw compositional specifications for food.

Under the provisions of Article 11, Paragraph 1 of the Food Sanitation Act, the Minister of Health, Labour and Welfare is authorized to establish residue standards (maximum residue limits: MRLs) for pesticides, feed additives, and veterinary drugs (hereafter referred to as just “agricultural chemicals”) that may remain in foods. Any food for which standards are established pursuant to the provisions is not permitted to be marketed in Japan unless it complies with the established standards.

On May 29, 2006, the MHLW introduced the positive list system for agricultural chemicals in food.* Basically, all foods distributed in the Japanese marketplace are subject to regulation based on the system.

The MHLW has decided to withdraw the MRLs for seven compounds. _

Note: The positive list system was established based on the 2003 amendment of the Food Sanitation Act. The system aims to prohibit the distribution of any food in the Japanese marketplace if it contains agricultural chemicals at amounts exceeding a certain level (0.01 ppm) specified under the Act.

Outline

Withdrawal of MRLs: The MHLW will withdraw all the MRLs for the following seven compounds, which was set when the Positive List System was introduced. These compounds are not registered with MAFF. In addition, at present, there are no MRLs set abroad for them.

Substances for which MRLs will be withdrawn

	Substance name		Main Use P: Pesticide V: Veterinary drug
	English	Japanese	
1	Aklomide	アクロミド	V: Parasiticide
2	Anilofos	アニロホス	P: Herbicide
3	Dichlofenthion	ジクロフェンチオン	P: Nematocid
4	Methazole	メタゾール	P: Herbicide
5	Milneb	ミルネブ	P: Fungicide

6	Pyridafenthion	ピリダフェンチオン	P: Insecticide, Acaricide
7	Vamidothion	バミドチオン	P: Insecticide, Acaricide

Aklomide

Commodity	MRL (draft) ppm	MRL (current) ppm
Chicken, muscle		5
Chicken, fat		3
Chicken, liver		5
Chicken, kidney		5
Chicken, edible offal		5

* Shaded figures indicate provisional MRLs.

* The uniform limit 0.01 ppm will be applied to commodities for which draft MRLs are not given in this table and to commodities not listed above.

Anilofos

Commodity	MRL (draft) ppm	MRL (current) ppm
Rice (brown rice)		0.05

* Shaded figures indicate provisional MRLs.

* The uniform limit 0.01 ppm will be applied to commodities for which draft MRLs are not given in this table and to commodities not listed above.

Dichlofenthion

Commodity	MRL (draft) ppm	MRL (current) ppm
Soybeans, dry		0.03
Beans, dry (including butter beans, cowbeans (red beans), lentil, lima beans, pedia, sultani, sultapya, and white beans)		0.03
Peas		0.03
Broad beans		0.03

Peanuts, dry		0.03
Other legumes/pulses		0.03
Japanese radish, roots (including radish)		0.03
Japanese radish, leaves (including radish)		0.03
Turnip, roots (including rutabaga)		0.03
Turnip, leaves (including rutabaga)		0.03
Horseradish		0.03
Watercress		0.03
Chinese cabbage		0.03
Cabbage		0.03
Brussels sprouts		0.03
Kale		0.03
Komatsuna(Japanese mustard spinach)		0.03
Kyona		0.03
Qing-geng-cai		0.03
Cauliflower		0.03
Broccoli		0.03
Other cruciferous vegetables		0.03
Burdock		0.03
Salsify		0.03
Artichoke		0.03
Chicory		0.03
Endive		0.03
Shungiku		0.03
Lettuce (including cos lettuce and leaf lettuce)		0.03
Other composite vegetables		0.03
Onion		0.03
Welsh (including leek)		0.03
Garlic		0.03
Nira		0.03
Asparagus		0.03
Multiplied onion (including shallot)		0.03
Other liliaceous vegetables		0.03
Carrot		0.03
Parsnip		0.03
Parsley		0.03
Celery		0.03
Mitsuba		0.03
Other umbelliferous vegetables		0.03
Tomato		0.03
Pimiento (sweet pepper)		0.03
Egg plant		0.03
Other solanaceous vegetables		0.03
Cucumber (including gherkin)		0.03

Pumpkin (including squash)		0.03
Oriental pickling melon (vegetable)		0.03
Other cucurbitaceous vegetables		0.03
Spinach		0.03
Bamboo shoots		0.03
Okra		0.03
Ginger		0.03
Peas, immature (with pods)		0.03
Kidney beans, immature (with pods)		0.03
Green soybeans		0.03
Button mushroom		0.03
Shiitake mushroom		0.03
Other mushrooms		0.03
Other vegetables		0.03
Other spices		0.03
Other herbs		0.03

* Shaded figures indicate provisional MRLs.

* The uniform limit 0.01 ppm will be applied to commodities for which draft MRLs are not given in this table and to commodities not listed above.

* In the "Commodity" column, for the food categories to which the word other is added, refer to the Notes given in the last two pages of the Attachment.

Methazole

Commodity	MRL (draft) ppm	MRL (current) ppm
Onion		0.1

* Shaded figures indicate provisional MRLs.

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Milne

Commodity	MRL (draft) ppm	MRL (current) ppm
Water melon		0.6
Melons		0.6

Makuwauri melon		0.6
Unshu orange, pulp		0.6
Citrus natsudaidai, whole		0.6
Lemon		0.6
Orange (including navel orange)		0.6
Grapefruit		0.6
Lime		0.6
Other citrus fruits		0.6
Apple		0.6
Japanese pear		0.6
Pear		0.6
Quince		0.6
Loquat		0.6
Peach		0.6
Nectarine		0.6
Apricot		0.6
Japanese plum (including prune)		0.6
Mume plum		0.6
Cherry		0.6
Strawberry		0.6
Raspberry		0.6
Blackberry		0.6
Blueberry		0.6
Cranberry		0.6
Huckleberry		0.6
Other berries		0.6
Grape		0.6
Japanese persimmon		0.6
Banana		0.6
Kiwifruit		0.6
Papaya		0.6
Avocado		0.6
Pineapple		0.6
Guava		0.6
Mango		0.6
Passion fruit		0.6
Date		0.6
Other fruits		0.6
Sunflower seeds		0.6
Sesame seeds		0.6
Safflower seeds		0.6
Cotton seeds		0.6
Rapeseeds		0.6
Other oil seeds		0.6

Ginkgo nut		0.6
Chestnut		0.6
Pecan		0.6
Almond		0.6
Walnut		0.6
Other nuts		0.6
Other spices		0.6

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Pyridafenthion

Commodity	MRL (draft) ppm	MRL (current) ppm
Rice (brown rice)		0.05
Soybeans, dry		0.01
Beans, dry (including butter beans, cowbeans (red beans), lentil, lima beans, pedia, sultani, sultapya, and white beans)		0.01
Peas		0.01
Broad beans		0.01
Peanuts, dry		0.01
Other legumes/pulses		0.01
Japanese radish, roots (including radish)		0.03
Japanese radish, leaves (including radish)		0.03
Turnip, roots (including rutabaga)		0.03
Turnip, leaves (including rutabaga)		0.03
Horseradish		0.03
Watercress		0.03
Chinese cabbage		0.03
Cabbage		0.03
Brussels sprouts		0.03
Kale		0.03
Komatsuna(Japanese mustard spinach)		0.03
Kyona		0.03
Qing-geng-cai		0.03
Cauliflower		0.03
Broccoli		0.03
Other cruciferous vegetables		0.03
Burdock		0.03

Salsify		0.03
Artichoke		0.03
Chicory		0.03
Endive		0.03
Shungiku		0.03
Lettuce (including cos lettuce and leaf lettuce)		0.03
Other composite vegetables		0.03
Onion		0.03
Welsh (including leek)		0.03
Garlic		0.03
Nira		0.03
Asparagus		0.03
Multiplying onion (including shallot)		0.03
Other liliaceous vegetables		0.03
Carrot		0.03
Parsnip		0.03
Parsley		0.03
Celery		0.03
Mitsuba		0.03
Other umbelliferous vegetables		0.03
Tomato		0.03
Pimiento (sweet pepper)		0.03
Egg plant		0.03
Other solanaceous vegetables		0.03
Cucumber (including gherkin)		0.03
Pumpkin (including squash)		0.03
Oriental pickling melon (vegetable)		0.03
Water melon		0.1
Melons		0.1
Makuwauri melon		0.1
Other cucurbitaceous vegetables		0.03
Spinach		0.03
Bamboo shoots		0.03
Okra		0.03
Ginger		0.03
Peas, immature (with pods)		0.03
Kidney beans, immature (with pods)		0.03
Green soybeans		0.03
Button mushroom		0.03
Shiitake mushroom		0.03
Other mushrooms		0.03
Other vegetables		0.03
Unshu orange, pulp		0.1
Citrus natsudaidai, whole		0.1

Lemon		0.1
Orange (including navel orange)		0.1
Grapefruit		0.1
Lime		0.1
Other citrus fruits		0.1
Apple		0.1
Japanese pear		0.1
Pear		0.1
Quince		0.1
Loquat		0.1
Peach		0.1
Nectarine		0.1
Apricot		0.1
Japanese plum (including prune)		0.1
Mume plum		0.1
Cherry		0.1
Strawberry		0.1
Raspberry		0.1
Blackberry		0.1
Blueberry		0.1
Cranberry		0.1
Huckleberry		0.1
Other berries		0.1
Grape		0.1
Japanese persimmon		0.1
Banana		0.1
Kiwifruit		0.1
Papaya		0.1
Avocado		0.1
Pineapple		0.1
Guava		0.1
Mango		0.1
Passion fruit		0.1
Date		0.1
Other fruits		0.1
Sunflower seeds		0.1
Sesame seeds		0.1
Safflower seeds		0.1
Cotton seeds		0.1
Rapeseeds		0.1
Other oil seeds		0.1
Ginkgo nut		0.1
Chestnut		0.1
Pecan		0.1

Almond		0.1
Walnut		0.1
Other nuts		0.1
Other spices		0.1
Other herbs		0.03

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Vamidotion

Commodity	MRL (draft) ppm	MRL (current) ppm
Rice (brown rice)		0.2
Wheat		0.2
Barley		0.2
Rye		0.2
Corn (maize, including pop corn and sweet corn)		0.2
Buckwheat		0.2
Other cereal grains		0.2
Soybeans, dry		0.02
Beans, dry (including butter beans, cowbeans (red beans), lentil, lima beans, pinto, sultani, sultapya, and white beans)		0.02
Peas		0.02
Broad beans		0.02
Peanuts, dry		0.02
Other legumes/pulses		0.02
Potato		0.5
Taro		0.05
Sweet potato		0.05
Yam		0.05
Konjac		0.05
Other potatoes		0.05
Sugar beet		0.5
Sugarcane		0.02
Japanese radish, roots (including radish)		0.05
Japanese radish, leaves (including radish)		0.05
Turnip, roots (including rutabaga)		0.05
Turnip, leaves (including rutabaga)		0.05
Horseradish		0.05

Watercress		0.05
Chinese cabbage		0.05
Cabbage		0.5
Brussels sprouts		0.5
Kale		0.05
Komatsuna(Japanese mustard spinach)		0.05
Kyona		0.05
Qing-geng-cai		0.05
Cauliflower		0.5
Broccoli		0.5
Other cruciferous vegetables		0.3
Burdock		0.05
Salsify		0.05
Artichoke		0.05
Chicory		0.05
Endive		0.05
Shungiku		0.05
Lettuce (including cos lettuce and leaf lettuce)		0.05
Other composite vegetables		0.05
Onion		0.05
Welsh (including leek)		0.05
Garlic		0.05
Nira		0.05
Asparagus		0.05
Multiplying onion (including shallot)		0.05
Other liliaceous vegetables		0.05
Carrot		0.05
Parsnip		0.05
Parsley		0.05
Celery		0.05
Mitsuba		0.05
Other umbelliferous vegetables		0.05
Tomato		0.05
Pimiento (sweet pepper)		0.05
Egg plant		0.05
Other solanaceous vegetables		0.05
Cucumber (including gherkin)		0.05
Pumpkin (including squash)		0.02
Oriental pickling melon (vegetable)		0.02
Water melon		2
Melons		0.05
Makuwauri melon		0.02
Other cucurbitaceous vegetables		0.02
Spinach		0.05

Bamboo shoots		0.02
Okra		0.02
Ginger		0.05
Peas, immature (with pods)		0.05
Kidney beans, immature (with pods)		0.05
Green soybeans		0.05
Button mushroom		0.05
Shiitake mushroom		0.05
Other mushrooms		0.05
Other vegetables		0.05
Unshu orange, pulp		0.05
Citrus natsudaidai, whole		0.05
Lemon		0.05
Orange (including navel orange)		0.05
Grapefruit		0.05
Lime		0.05
Other citrus fruits		0.05
Apple		3
Japanese pear		2
Pear		2
Quince		1
Loquat		1
Peach		0.5
Nectarine		0.05
Apricot		0.05
Japanese plum (including prune)		0.05
Mume plum		2
Cherry		0.05
Strawberry		0.05
Raspberry		0.05
Blackberry		0.05
Blueberry		0.05
Cranberry		0.05
Huckleberry		0.05
Other berries		0.05
Grape		0.5
Japanese persimmon		0.05
Banana		0.05
Kiwifruit		0.05
Papaya		0.02
Avocado		0.05
Pineapple		0.05
Guava		0.05
Mango		0.05

Passion fruit		0.05
Date		0.05
Other fruits		0.05
Sunflower seeds		0.02
Sesame seeds		0.02
Safflower seeds		0.02
Cotton seeds		0.02
Rapeseeds		0.02
Other oil seeds		0.02
Ginkgo nut		0.05
Chestnut		0.05
Pecan		0.05
Almond		0.05
Walnut		0.05
Other nuts		0.05
Tea		0.02
Coffee beans		0.02
Cacao beans		0.02
Hop		0.02
Other spices		0.05
Other hurbe		0.3

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Notes:

“Other cereal grains” refers to all cereal grains, except rice (brown rice), wheat, barley, rye, corn (maize), and buckwheat.

“Other legumes/pulses” refers to all legumes/pulses, except soybeans (dry), beans (dry), peas, broad beans, peanuts (dry), and spices.

“Other potatoes” refers to all potatoes, except potato, taro, sweet potato, yam, and konjac.

“Other cruciferous vegetables” refers to all cruciferous vegetables, except Japanese radish roots and leaves (including radish), turnip roots and leaves, horseradish, watercress, Chinese cabbage, cabbage, brussels sprouts, kale, komatsuna (Japanese mustard spinach), kyona, qing-geng-cai, cauliflower, broccoli, and herbs.

“Other composite vegetables” refers to all composite vegetables, except burdock, salsify, artichoke, chicory, endive, shungiku, lettuce (including cos lettuce and leaf

lettuce), and herbs.

“Other liliaceous vegetables” refers to all liliaceous vegetables, except onion, welsh (including leek), garlic, nira, asparagus, multiplying onion, and herbs.

“Other umbelliferous vegetables” refers to all umbelliferous vegetables, except carrot, parsnip, parsley, celery, mitsuba, spices, and herbs.

“Other solanaceous vegetables” refers to all solanaceous vegetables, except tomato, pimiento (sweet pepper), and egg plant.

“Other cucurbitaceous vegetables” refers to all cucurbitaceous vegetables, except cucumber (including gherkin), pumpkin (including squash), oriental pickling melon (vegetable), watermelon, melons, and makuwauri melon.

“Other mushrooms” refers to all mushrooms, except button mushroom, and shiitakemushroom.

“Other vegetables” refers to all vegetables, except potatoes, sugar beet, sugarcane, cruciferous vegetables, composite vegetables, liliaceous vegetables, umbelliferous vegetables, solanaceous vegetables, cucurbitaceous vegetables, spinach, bamboo shoots, okra, ginger, peas (with pods, immature), kidney beans (with pods, immature), green soybeans, mushrooms, spices, and herbs.

“Other citrus fruits” refers to all citrus fruits, except unshu orange (pulp), citrus natsudaïdai (pulp), citrus natsudaïdai (peel), citrus natsudaïdai (whole), lemon, orange (including navel orange), grapefruit, lime, and spices.

“Other berries” refers to all berries, except strawberry, raspberry, blackberry, blueberry, cranberry, and huckleberry.

“Other fruits” refers to all fruits, except citrus fruits, apple, Japanese pear, pear, quince, loquat, peach, nectarine, apricot, Japanese plum (including prune), mume plum, cherry, berries, grape, Japanese persimmon, banana, kiwifruit, papaya, avocado, pineapple, guava, mango, passion fruit, date and spices.

“Other oil seeds” refers to all oil seeds, except sunflower seeds, sesame seeds, safflower seeds, cotton seeds, rapeseeds and spices.

“Other nuts” refers to all nuts, except ginkgo nut, chestnut, pecan, almond and walnut.

“Other spices” refers to all spices, except horseradish, wasabi (Japanese horseradish) rhizomes, garlic, peppers chili, paprika, ginger, lemon peels, orange peels (including navel orange), yuzu (Chinese citron) peels and sesame seeds.

“Other herbs” refers to all herbs, except watercress, nira, parsley stems and leaves, celery stems and leaves.

“Other terrestrial mammals” refers to all terrestrial mammals, except cattle and pig.

“Other poultry animals” refers to all poultry, except chicken.

“Other fish” refers to all fish, except salmoniformes, anguilliformes, and perciformes.

“Other aquatic animals” refers to all aquatic animal, except fish, shelled molluscs and crustaceans.

Food Additive Regulations:
Pesticides and Other Contaminants: